

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

Released: April 28, 2008  
Week ending: April 27, 2008  
Volume: 04-08

Phone: 503-326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
Email: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)  
Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov/or](http://www.nass.usda.gov/or)

**Weather:** Conditions remained colder than average throughout the State last week with some areas reporting snow and hail. Temperatures increased into the 60's and 70's by week's end in most areas. High temperatures ranged from 79 degrees in Grants Pass to 56 degrees in Joseph. Low temperatures ranged from 39 degrees in Crescent City to 11 degrees in Burns and Redmond. The Florence station again received the most precipitation with 2.96 inches followed by the North Bend station with 2.53 inches. All stations received measurable precipitation with most occurring in the Willamette Valley and coastal areas. Most central and eastern counties did not receive significant amounts of much needed rainfall with many reporting only a trace. Of these counties, several reported below normal precipitation levels. All statewide stations reported below normal temperatures for the second straight week.

**Field Crops:** Cold and wet weather conditions prevailed last week, while the weekend saw more normal spring temperatures. This spring has been colder than normal in Oregon and the weather continued to hinder crop growth and development. Warmer weather like that received over the weekend would greatly benefit field crops across the State. Strings were still being put up in hop fields in Marion County last week. Hay was off to a slow start in Jackson County. Sugarbeet planting began in Baker County, with potato planting underway. Some frost damage to cereals were reported in Malheur County, while some lower elevation wheat fields of Gilliam County saw signs of drought stress in shallow soils.

**Vegetables:** Dry and warm weather at week's end was not enough to make up for the cold, soggy, and damp weather throughout the week in the Willamette Valley. The slow spring start was evident in the continuous delay of many vegetable plantings. April is usually the month

that farmers start planting bush beans, but with the cold and wet weather so far this spring, many growers are behind on their planting dates.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Unseasonal cool weather continued to slow fruit and nut development Statewide. Generally, trees were one to two weeks behind. It has been difficult for bees to pollinate under such conditions. It was still too early to know the extent of damage to the earlier fruit crops including plums, peaches, cherries, early apples, and pears. Nighttime low temperatures dipped into the low 30s in the lower Hood River Valley and high 20s in the upper valley. Weather conditions improved significantly at the end of the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear past full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at first pink to first bloom (WSU stages 5&7); Bing cherry at first to full bloom (WSU stages 7&8); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 3.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Cold temperatures continued to create concerns for nurseries. The cool conditions slowed plant growth and kept nurseries busy covering plants vulnerable to frost. The cool weather was beneficial for digging and shipping shrubs and trees. Nurseries were active with sales of trees and shrubs, and getting new stock started. Greenhouses were busy with spring vegetable starts.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** The cool weather is giving pasture a slow start in many areas, making supplemental feeding necessary. Warm weather will improve conditions. Still, cattle and calves have been turned out on pasture in most areas.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/27/08**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	2	13	62	23
Subsoil	6	15	56	23

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/27/08**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	5	69	20	6
Barley	0	1	57	29	13
Range and pasture	2	16	39	33	10

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/27/08**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	88	82	91	79
Barley emerged	52	50	77	59
Spring wheat planted	94	83	95	87
Spring wheat emerged	68	45	66	58
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.6	5.0	5.6	-

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Plums were nearing the end of bloom while cherries and pears continued to be in the blooming stage. Peaches were mostly done but there wasn't much fruit. Apples were leafing out and some early apples were blooming. Generally all tree fruit crops are one to two weeks slow this year due to the weather. Cold weather has been reducing the pollination of tree fruits, but time will tell what the impact will be. Blueberries were in the bud swelling stage and strawberries were showing bloom buds. Overall, most berry crops were showing growth. Farmers markets were under way. Most greenhouses were growing crops but sales are brisk at the moment. Christmas tree ground was too wet to plant. Vegetable plantings were delayed. Cold weather has kept geese in the area, causing a hardship for grass seed growers.

**CLACKAMAS:** It was still wet and cold last week but the rain diminished by Thursday and it was nice through Sunday, a welcomed relief. All temperature sensitive growth is late. Cherries plums, prunes, and pears were blooming in the rain. Still much spring grain seed was waiting in the barn. How late can you expect a crop from spring oats? Still probably OK for barley.

**CLATSOP:** It was cool and wet during the week with conditions becoming warmer and dry over the weekend. Some green chop and grass silage was being harvested when weather allowed.

**COLUMBIA:** Pastures were very slow to grow with overgrazing common. Cold temperatures affected some nursery plants. Not clear whether the small amount of commercial small fruit plantings were affected.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures were very cool to start the week, with a high of only 45 degrees in Brookings on Monday. However, temperatures warmed up late in the week to the 5-year average. Some precipitation early in the week, with over 1.5 inches over 3 days. Pastures were starting to dry out again, with more livestock going on feed. Curry County: The low temperature for the period was 40.46 degrees, 3.56 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 61 degrees, 8.13 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 1.55 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 1.21 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 62.19 inches, 12.16 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 64.54 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** Temperatures this past week were above normal during the day, with areas of frost a couple mornings. There was some light rainfall. The cool damp trend continued. Very poor pollination weather is leading to a poor set with all tree fruit. There is still time for apples to have a decent crop if there are 3-4 days of dry sunny weather. Plums, peaches, pears, and cherries look poor, a lot of time for grapes. Cane berries and strawberries are getting close to flowering and will need a nice week or so in May. Nursery people saying weather has been good for digging and shipping shrubs and trees. The cool conditions are keeping plants in good shape but not much growth on small nursery items. Greenhouse nursery plants have developed slowly due to the cloud cover.

**JACKSON:** Last week was wet and cold, but conditions got back to about normal over the weekend. We really have had a slow start for the spring. There was still some grain being planted and some field

preparation work. Grains were looking better. The hay crop was off to a slow start. Pear blossoms were in pedal drop and some spraying was being done. The cold frosty nights have caused damage to the peach crop, but also a lot of weed and sprout killing. Apples were still in bloom. More planting was being done in vegetable gardens, but weather was still too cold and wet. Greenhouses were still very busy with spring vegetable starts, and also lots of spring vegetables. Nurseries were busy with sales of trees and shrubs, and getting new stock started. Livestock were mostly out on valley pastures, although pasture is getting a slow start with the colder weather. Lots of babies are now out with their mothers.

**JOSEPHINE:** Last week was soggy and cool to start, but the weather became more seasonal as the week moved on. We had temperatures in the 28 to 38 range night time, 48 to 50 range day time. By the end of week we were in the 70's to lower 80's. Measurable rain was around five inches for us in the Valley, although not all places received that much. Plowing and disking of truck gardens was going on at the end of the week. Nurseries were doing good business with warm season plants, although it is early for planting. Livestock were looking good and pastures were greening up.

**MARION:** Last week started cold and rainy but by week's end it was warm and around 70 degrees. It was a nice weekend for AgFest, which took place at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem this past weekend. The nice weekend weather got people out of the house cleaning up their yards and enjoying life. The rainy days at the beginning of the week were pretty wet for field tillage but as the weather permitted, some spraying, fertilizing, and liming was accomplished. Still getting strings up in hops fields. Nurseries were very active with many workers tending to the growing plants and covering those vulnerable to freezing on cold nights when freeze appears possible. This spring season has been cooler than normal and many crops are experiencing slower growth or later bloom than usual. April is usually the month the farmers start planting bush beans, but this spring has been too wet and cold so they are behind on their planting dates.

**POLK:** Cool damp conditions with rain most of last week. There was some drying and warmer weather over the weekend. Crops were growing but would benefit if temperatures were closer to normal.

**WASHINGTON:** The high temperature was 74 degrees and the low was 30 degrees with 1.4 inches of rain. Small grains were doing well after fertilization. Clover was growing rapidly. Cold and rainy conditions slowed all fruits and, hopefully, damage is light. Orchard bees were working hard but pollination has been poor. Hot house plants were ready to be transplanted. Hot caps were still on new seedlings. Pastures were improving with some solid enough for grazing and calves were looking healthy. Report from Christmas tree growers have indicated that the late spring has delayed bud break and shoot elongation resulting in a reduced rate of frost damage to trees. There was plenty of moisture in the soil and growing conditions were looking good.

**YAMHILL:** Cool weather continued to hold back growth of most crops. In the Willamette Valley, there was some hail and snowfall last week. Some orchards on the valley floor have been in full bloom, while higher elevations have been delayed. The anticipated sub-freezing weather did not come to pass as badly as was expected. The weather patterns have not been favorable for good bee flight and pollination.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER/UNION:** Many ranchers were turning out as the grass is higher than the hay stack. Warm weather is still needed for pasture growth. The impact of the recent cold front with freezing temperatures is not known at this time. Sugarbeet planting has begun with preparations underway for planting potatoes.

**GILLIAM:** The impact of continued dry weather was becoming evident in shallow soil areas of lower elevation. Wheat was beginning to show drought stress in those locations.

**GRANT:** Cold weather made for slow grass growth. Hay supplies continued to run short.

**HOOD RIVER:** Cool to unseasonably cold and cloudy weather with intermittent rain and snow prevailed for much of the week resulting in generally poor pollination conditions for fruit crops. Night time low temperatures dipped into the low 30's in the lower Hood River Valley and high 20's in the upper valley. Weather conditions improved significantly at the end of the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear past full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at first pink to first bloom (WSU stages 5&7); Bing cherry at first to full bloom (WSU stages 7&8); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 3.

**KLAMATH:** Sunday was a nice spring day, but the remainder of the week was cold and wet with snow and rain showers during the week. Spring preparation work and planting was underway when conditions allowed and irrigation continued in drier areas.

**LAKE:** Warmer day time temperatures were helping pasture growth.

**MALHEUR:** Cold weather was still the over-riding condition. There were scattered showers last week but nothing of significance. All canals had water and irrigation has started. Some cattle were turned out. Grass availability continued to vary but all areas needed warmer weather to produce grass. Cool weather and frost last Monday has done some damage to cereals.

**SHERMAN:** Earlier cold weather has caused some yellowing of the tops of plant leaves. Night time temperatures have been freezing and the days have only been warming to low 50's with some very cold winds. These weather conditions have further dried topsoil and hampered crop development. Some producers were snowed/hailed out of the field early in the week. Grass growth on range was also very short. The warmer weekend weather should help crop growth. The north slopes were looking better and showing a little growth, but a good week of warm weather and warm rain is needed as precipitation totals lag way below normal. Maybe our drought has not ended despite two years of normal and good rain.

**UMATILLA:** Warmer weather has allowed for better growing conditions. Low soil moisture conditions were still in effect through last week. Possible showers are forecasted for the upcoming week. Moderate rains are needed to help ease current dry conditions.

**WALLOWA:** Snowpack was 100% of normal.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 27, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	32	68	46	-4	4	-5	2.25	1.34	6	54.93	-3.33	94	158
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	35	65	48	-2	5	-9	1.51	0.69	4	50.90	-2.15	96	155
Crescent City	39	59	48	-4	2	-26	1.46	0.62	4	43.35	-16.02	73	107
Florence	32	69	46	-5	6	-8	2.96	1.93	4	79.23	11.41	117	140
North Bend	34	64	48	-4	6	-8	2.53	1.65	4	55.13	-2.03	96	131
Tillamook	34	70	47	-3	4	-3	2.14	0.96	4	51.54	-25.76	67	149
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	32	71	48	-4	11	-10	1.18	0.62	4	38.74	3.34	109	142
Corvallis	31	69	47	-4	8	-13	1.08	0.59	4	40.89	2.90	108	138
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	33	73	45	+0	8	+1	1.91	1.04	4	78.46	18.86	132	149
Eugene	34	70	48	-5	10	-14	0.51	-0.08	4	33.03	-11.00	75	120
Hillsboro	33	70	47	-5	6	-15	0.83	0.41	4	29.18	-3.66	89	122
McMinnville	31	70	47	-5	6	-16	0.78	0.29	4	32.24	-6.67	83	132
Portland	36	71	49	-4	13	-15	0.76	0.27	4	29.24	-1.66	95	132
Salem	32	68	47	-4	7	-13	0.95	0.46	4	34.58	0.10	100	122
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	32	79	47	-8	8	-33	0.67	0.32	4	26.35	-2.19	92	108
Medford	34	78	50	-4	19	-16	0.18	-0.04	2	15.03	-1.40	91	91
Roseburg	35	77	50	-3	18	-15	0.32	-0.11	4	30.21	0.98	103	122
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	19	62	40	-8	-	-7	0.29	0.01	2	9.64	-0.94	91	83
Echo <sup>8</sup>	23	72	47	-8	3	-34	0.03	-0.11	2	6.77	-0.43	94	85
Heppner	23	67	44	-7	4	-17	0.36	0.06	3	10.31	-0.12	99	94
Hermiston	25	74	47	-7	4	-33	0.05	-0.09	1	6.65	-0.55	92	67
Madras <sup>8</sup>	23	71	43	-6	3	-18	0.26	0.12	2	5.85	-2.00	75	77
Moro	22	63	41	-8	-	-14	0.29	0.15	2	8.33	-0.61	93	70
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	25	69	42	-9	2	-22	0.24	-0.07	3	19.71	-8.55	70	90
Pendleton	27	74	47	-6	6	-24	0.04	-0.17	1	8.29	-1.16	88	74
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	23	71	43	-6	3	-18	0.26	0.12	2	5.85	-2.00	75	77
The Dalles	29	73	48	-2	10	-9	0.30	0.16	2	12.22	1.82	117	73
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	25	69	42	-2	6	-1	0.19	0.01	2	10.39	-2.85	78	81
Bend	18	73	41	-5	6	-6	0.02	-0.12	2	11.53	2.57	129	69
Burns	11	72	39	-7	2	-5	0.19	0.05	2	7.34	0.30	104	84
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	13	74	40	-8	2	-13	0.06	-0.10	1	4.00	-5.23	43	58
Klamath Falls	20	74	42	-6	4	-10	0.02	-0.12	1	7.56	-3.39	69	69
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	21	74	42	-6	5	-9	0.02	-0.12	1	8.24	-2.71	75	93
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	20	75	42	-5	2	-12	0.05	-0.09	2	6.93	-4.02	63	93
Redmond	11	75	42	-5	3	-11	0.03	-0.11	1	1.61	-4.48	26	32
Worden <sup>8</sup>	22	74	42	-5	4	-10	0.03	-0.11	3	6.84	-4.11	62	91
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	14	66	39	-9	-	-14	0.17	-0.04	1	6.43	-0.22	97	84
Joseph	15	56	35	-8	-	-1	0.49	0.07	4	13.59	-5.43	71	99
La Grande	18	70	42	-7	1	-16	0.25	-0.10	2	8.83	-3.99	69	73
Union	21	63	40	-8	-	-14	0.37	0.07	4	7.51	-1.43	84	77
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	22	68	45	-9	-	-40	0.15	0.01	1	5.30	-2.25	70	60
Rome	15	75	42	-8	-	-21	0.01	-0.19	1	6.05	0.64	112	69

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.